

Serial No.: 10/605,740

Amendment Dated: September 10, 2004

Reply to Office Action of June 10, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): ~~An improved~~ In an operator driven ridable carpet-cleaning machine of the type having a cleaning solution reservoir, a vacuum blower and waste water holding tank, and a raisable power brush platform located between front and rear support wheels, the improvement comprising:

a pair of counter-rotating cylindrical brushes attached to said raisable power brush platform; and

a at least one liquid spray nozzle attached to said carpet cleaning machine at a position forward of said pair of counter-rotating cylindrical brushes, said liquid spray nozzle in fluid communication with said cleaning solution reservoir.

2. (currently amended): The ~~improved~~ ridable carpet-cleaning machine as described in Claim 1, and further comprising a pump located intermediate of and in fluid communication with said at least one liquid spray nozzle and said cleaning solution reservoir.

3. (currently amended): The ~~improved~~ ridable carpet-cleaning machine as described in Claim 2, wherein said at least one liquid spray nozzle is attached to said raisable power brush platform.

Serial No.: 10/605,740

Amendment Dated: September 10, 2004

Reply to Office Action of June 10, 2004

4. (currently amended): The ~~improved~~ ridable carpet-cleaning machine as described in Claim 2, and further comprising a liquid spray manifold located intermediate of and in fluid communication with said pump and said at least one liquid spray nozzle.

5. (currently amended): The ~~improved~~ ridable carpet-cleaning machine as described in Claim 4, and ~~further comprising~~ wherein said at least one liquid spray nozzle comprises a plurality of liquid spray nozzles attached to said carpet-cleaning machine and in fluid communication with said liquid spray manifold.

6. (currently amended) The ~~improved~~ ridable carpet-cleaning machine as described in Claim 5, wherein said liquid spray manifold is attached to said raisable power brush platform and each of said plurality of liquid spray nozzles are attached to said liquid spray manifold.

7. (currently amended): An ~~improved~~ In an operator driven ridable carpet cleaning machine of the type having a vacuum blower and a waste reservoir, the improvement comprising:

a vacuum shoe attached to said carpet-cleaning machine and selectively downwardly biased relative thereto, said vacuum shoe in fluid communication with said vacuum blower and said waste reservoir.

8. (currently amended): The ~~improved~~ carpet-cleaning machine as described in Claim 7, wherein said vacuum shoe comprises a pair of vacuum shoes ~~are~~ attached to said carpet-cleaning machine and selectively downwardly biased relative thereto, said pair of vacuum shoes are attached to one another in a manner permitting mutual articulation.

Serial No.: 10/605,740

Amendment Dated: September 10, 2004

Reply to Office Action of June 10, 2004

9. (currently amended): The ~~improved~~ carpet-cleaning machine as described in Claim 7, wherein said vacuum shoe comprises a plurality of vacuum shoes are attached to said carpet-cleaning machine and selectively downwardly biased relative thereto, said plurality of vacuum shoes are attached to one another in a manner permitting mutual articulation.

10. (original): A scrubbing machine for scrubbing a soft floor surface comprising:

a frame;

means to move said scrubbing machine along said soft floor surface in a manner defining a path of movement;

a pair of surface engaging rotary tools mounted on said frame for rotation about parallel, transversely extending axes;

at least one spray nozzle mounted on the frame for applying a scrubbing liquid to said soft floor surface in said path of movement in advance of said rotary tools; and

means mounted on said frame for collecting said scrubbing liquid after application of same to said soft floor surface, said collecting means including at least one surface engagable vacuum shoe.

11. (currently amended): A The scrubbing machine as described in Claim 10, wherein said at least one surface engagable vacuum shoe comprises a pair of vacuum shoes ~~are provided~~ providing said collecting means, said pair of vacuum shoes are attached to one another in a manner permitting each of said pair of vacuum shoes to articulate relative to one another.

12. (currently amended) A scrubbing machine ~~as described in Claim 11 for scrubbing a carpeted floor surface comprising:~~

Serial No.: 10/605,740

Amendment Dated: September 10, 2004

Reply to Office Action of June 10, 2004

a frame;

means to move said scrubbing machine along said carpeted floor surface in a manner defining a path of movement;

a pair of surface engaging rotary tools mounted on said frame for rotation about parallel axes, said axes extending transversely to said path of movement;

at least one spray nozzle mounted on the frame for applying a scrubbing liquid to said carpeted floor surface in said path of movement in advance of said rotary tools; and

means mounted on said frame for collecting said scrubbing liquid after application of same to said carpeted floor surface, said collecting means including a pair of surface engagable vacuum shoes, wherein each of said pair of vacuum shoes are attached to one another in a manner forming a hinged connection permitting each of said pair of vacuum shoes to articulate relative to one another.

13. (currently amended): A The scrubbing machine as described in Claim 11, wherein said pair of surface engaging rotary tools counter-rotate relative to one another.

14. (currently amended): A The scrubbing machine as described in Claim 11, wherein said at least one spray nozzle comprises a plurality of spray nozzles are mounted on said frame for applying said scrubbing liquid.